AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[9]] 13, further comprising:

an arrangement for comparing the first signal to a noise threshold to ascertain a starting point for the first comparison.

11. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[9]] 13, wherein the second signal includes a relative speed.

12. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A device ~~as recited in Claim 10~~ for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, ~~further~~ the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing;

an arrangement for comparing the first signal to a noise threshold to ascertain a starting point for the first comparison; and

an arrangement for determining a starting point for the first comparison from a third signal of the environment sensor system.

13. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A device ~~as recited in Claim 9~~ for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, ~~further~~ the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing; and

an arrangement for changing the threshold as a function of time.

14. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in Claim 12, further comprising:

an arrangement for setting the noise threshold as a function of the third signal.

15. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[9]] 12, further comprising:

an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

16. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in Claim [[9]] 12, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

17. (New) The device as recited in Claim 13, further comprising:

an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

18. (New) The device as recited in Claim 15, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

19. (New) The device as recited in Claim 13, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

20. (New) The device as recited in Claim 11, further comprising:

an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

21. (New) The device as recited in Claim 20, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

22. (New) The device as recited in Claim 11, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

23. (New) The device as recited in Claim 10, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

24. (New) The device as recited in Claim 10, further comprising:

an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

25. (New) The device as recited in Claim 24, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

26. (New) The device as recited in Claim 10, wherein the second signal includes a relative speed.

27. (New) The device as recited in Claim 26, further comprising:

an arrangement for one of differentiating and integrating the first signal for comparison at least once.

28. (New) The device as recited in Claim 26, wherein the first signal itself is used for the first comparison.

29. (New) A device for activating an actuator system for protecting a pedestrian, the device being connected to an environment sensor system and a contact sensor system, the device comprising:

an arrangement for performing a first comparison of a first signal from the contact sensor system to a threshold;

an arrangement for changing one of the threshold and the first signal as a function of a second signal of the environment sensor system, the actuator system being activated as a function of the comparing; and

an arrangement for determining a starting point for the first comparison from a third signal of the environment sensor system.